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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 15th November, 1894.

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All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Telephone Address: Press, 40, Box 29. Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 17th, 1894.

The *Independence* Tokio issue sets out at length the reasons on which its sympathy is given to Japan in the present war. These reasons are ranged under two heads, first, those resting on grounds of sentiment, and second, those which result from a material point of view. As to the sentimental reasons, they are, briefly stated, that the Japanese are the French of the Far East, and that the political, military, judicial, and administrative organization of the country is copied in some measure from that of France. China, on the other hand, the writer goes on to say, is less advanced than she was five hundred years ago, and is completely opposed to civilization. Moreover, China has always been hostile to France, and German officers are to be found in her ships and in her army. Posing on to the consideration of the subject from the material point of view, the writer says that China is France's neighbour in Tonkin, and is a "bad neighbour, a double instrument in the hands of England, that rival whom we meet everywhere, barring our road and railing for us all possible and often insupportable difficulties. We have the greatest interest in seeing China weakened both morally and materially. The victories of Japan therefore touch us closely. The greater their triumph and the more durable will be the benefit to us. This is why, our contemporary goes on to say, "we recently declared that we would see with satisfaction an alliance concluded in the Far East between Russia, Japan, and France, and to calm England and China, which appears to be her usual."

Such an alliance as is here suggested would no doubt be very welcome to France and might also in certain contingencies be appreciated by Russia, but it could never become acceptable to Japan. The policy of that country, we take it, will be to avoid entangling alliances with European Powers altogether. She will best work out the bright destiny which she herself by keeping her hands quite free and taking no part in the quarrels that may arise between any of the Western nations. Should she be disposed, however, to conclude an alliance with any European Power England would be the one she would naturally select. Our Tonkin contemporary speaks of the Japanese as the French of the Far East, and in some respects their character resembles that of the French, but Japan herself aspires to play the role of the England of the Pacific, and in the commercial development of the country it is English ideas that are followed. We do not imagine that Japan desires an alliance with Great Britain, but on the other hand there is certainly no reason why she should enter into an alliance against her. It England should unhesitatingly give any active support to China in the present war, the opportunity would offer itself to France and Russia either jointly or singly to enter into such an alliance as is suggested by the Tonkin paper, but no such mistake will be made by the British Government. There has been a good deal of vapouring from time to time about an Anglo-

Chinese alliance, but there has never been any justification for it. No Ministry could ever seriously entertain the idea of entering into an alliance with a country so opposed to China as the march of civilization, so faithless, and as the present war has proved, so weak in her powers of offence or defence.

H.M.S. *Undenied* left yesterday for North.

The E. & A. steamer *Mamuir*, from Australia, left Port Darwin yesterday morning for this port.

Mr. Linton, who the Japanese are reported to have met with a check, is to be the next of Newburgh.

The junk which was seized by the Chinese Customs at Quarry Bay has been handed over to the Hongkong G. S. M. S.

The O. & K. steamer *Relax*, with mails, left San Francisco for this port via Yokohama and Nagasaki, on the 15th inst.

The N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen*, with the German mail of the 2nd ult., left Singapore on Thursday at 8 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, the 21st inst.

We are indebted to the Spanish Consul for a copy of the following telegram despatched from Olanza yesterday evening:—There is a despatch to the N.E. of Luzon near to the coast.

The P. M. S. steamer *City of Peking*, with mails, from San Francisco to the 25th ult. inst., has arrived at Yokohama, and leaves for this port today, the 17th inst., at daylight, via Nagasaki.

A codia who was waiting water at a street hydrant the other day in order to keep a fish, was placed under the tap, fresh paid \$10 to the collector of the Police Court yesterday for this serious offence.

The "R. V. S." concert takes place to-night. The first part of the programme consists of miscellaneous items, and the second part of the concert "The Evening," which has been in rehearsal for several weeks past.

To-morrow morning, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the *Independence*, carrying the Bethel flag, will call alongside any vessel hoisting codium C, to convey men ashore to 11 a.m. service at St. Peter's (St. James's) Church, returning about 12.30.

We understand that the Limkok Hinghose (North Hinghose) is now completed, and will shortly be put in operation. The work has been well and expeditiously executed by Mr. Harding under the supervision of Mr. Urwin, Commissioner of Customs of the Hainan district. The Hinghose, which has also made good progress, and the west entrance to the Strait is expected to be lighted by January next.

The extraordinary pain of toothache drives one generally to bad language and the dentist, but a poor fellow suffering the torments which were yesterday caused him, made an attempt yesterday to his existence. He was unsuccessful, however, and Commander W. C. H. Hastings, before whom he appeared at the Magistrate's Court, taken to the Government Civil Hospital to have the uncomfortable molar extracted.

The circus gives a matinee performance to-day. In the evening, the ordinary attractions of the show will be added, a distribution of watches. We understand the manager of the show is of an opinion that the local police for Friday evening next. This feature proved very successful in Shanghai, and although we have not so many people here as they have there the manager has no doubt to get a good number of entries and prove interesting.

The steamer *Menara*, belonging to the Compagnie des Messageries Fluviales de Cochinchine, was wrecked on the night of the 29th ult. on the coast of the Gulf of Siam. She was a fine new steamer, 1,200 tons, and was on her way from Saigon, Bangkok, and Singapore, and was lost on her last voyage. The crew and passengers were all saved. The ship was wrecked on a reef, and the cargo was lost.

The Field Battery of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps are to have a great field day to-day. The Battery will march off from Headquarters at 9.30 a.m. for the purpose of practising. It is probable the parade will number over 60 men, or nearly the entire strength, and this will perhaps be one of the best turn-outs of the Battery since its formation. The day will be a very successful one, and the Battery will be well satisfied with the result.

With respect to the question of exchange of prisoners, we hear that the officials of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation have been asked to consider the proposal for the exchange of prisoners. It is understood that the terms of the proposal are that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation should pay the cost of the exchange of prisoners, and that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation should be allowed to keep the prisoners for a period of six months.

We (*London Gazette*) understand that the report on the three alternative schemes to be considered by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has decided to accept the first scheme. The first scheme is that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation should pay the cost of the exchange of prisoners, and that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation should be allowed to keep the prisoners for a period of six months.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. in their circular dated Saigon, 31st November, say:—*Rice*—Rice continues to be in great demand, and the price is high. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has decided to accept the first scheme. The first scheme is that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation should pay the cost of the exchange of prisoners, and that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation should be allowed to keep the prisoners for a period of six months.

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THE CHINA-JAPAN WAR.

Despatches have been received stating that the Chinese have repulsed the Japanese at Matschia and captured their retreating forces for miles.

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